only 89.82 kg/ha. This level of consumption is not considered high for declining the fertility of the land. However, the Government is advocating "Integrated Nutrient Management" (INM) by promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures, bio-fertilizers, Green Manure, Farm Yard Manure, compost, vermicompost etc.

The Government is also promoting organic farming by using organic inputs for plant nutrients.

Alternatives to tobacco cultivation

†1853. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco cultivation has been affected due to the ban imposed on the advertisements of tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether any suggestion has been given by the Ministry to tobacco cultivators for alternative cultivation; and

(c) whether any research has been undertaken for suggesting alternative cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is undertaking research and development work on alternate crops to tobacco. Several alternate crops and cropping systems have been developed and recommended by the ICAR for tobacco growing areas in different agro-climatic zones of the country.

Customs Duty on raw-materials for irrigation system

1854. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken or proposed to be taken regarding exemption of customs duty on raw materials to be imported for manufacture of micro-irrigation system sold in Andhra Pradesh to make it more affordable for an ordinary farmers to utilize this system, specially when the ground water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

resources are getting drastically reduced, causing unbearable hardships to small farmers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Task Force on Micro Irrigation to exempt customs and excise duty on Micro Irrigation System was examined by the Ministry of Finance. It was felt that the inputs/raw material which would require exemption from custom duty are general use items having a strong domestic angle. Moreover, to ensure that exemption sought is availed of only by the intended beneficiaries, an end-use condition extending two levels will be required which would be administratively infeasible. It has, therefore, been considered that the Micro Irrigation System should be made affordable through the route of subsidy rather than excise and customs duty exemptions.

Shere-e-Kashmir University

1855. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 164 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the requisite money for 500 acres of land procured for Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has been received from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether compensation has been paid to the villagers for their land acquired for the university;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the Rs. 5427.29 lakhs spent on this university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The State Government (Jammu & Kashmir) has released Rs. 6 crores to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST) as first installment, which has been advanced to the Collector, Land Acquisition, Jammu for payment to the land owners as per details given as under: